

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 3-5 and 7 have been amended and claims 8-14 have been added as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): An agglomerate comprising fine primary particles of an inorganic compound except for silica, the agglomerate satisfying the following expressions (a) to (e):

$$(a) \ 0.5 \leq dp_{50} \leq 20 \quad [\mu m]$$

$$(b) \ 0 \leq \alpha \leq 2.5 \quad [-]$$

$$(c) \ 30 \leq Sw \quad [m^2/g]$$

$$(d) \ 20 \leq St \leq 150 \quad [MPa] \text{ and}$$

$$(e) \ 200 \leq Sta \leq 600 [MPa],$$

wherein

dp_{50} : the average particle diameter [μm] of the agglomerate measured by Microtrac-FRA, a laser analysis type particle size distribution measurement apparatus,

α : the value calculated by dividing the difference between the particle diameter d_{90} of cumulative 90% minus sieve particles of the agglomerate and the particle diameter d_{10} of cumulative 10% minus sieve particles of the agglomerate calculated by the Microtrac-FRA, a laser analysis type particle size distribution measurement

apparatus by the average particle diameter dp_{50} according to the following equation:

$$\alpha = (d_{90} - d_{10})/dp_{50},$$

d_{90} : the particle diameter of cumulative 90% minus sieve particles of the agglomerate measured by the Microtrac-FRA, a laser analysis type particle size distribution measurement apparatus,

d_{10} : the particle diameter of cumulative 10% minus sieve particles of the agglomerate measured by the Microtrac-FRA, a laser analysis type particle size distribution measurement apparatus,

Sw : the BET specific surface area of the agglomerate [m^2/g],

St : the tensile strength [MPa] required to break the agglomerate with the particle diameter $4\mu m$, measured by a micro compression testing machine manufactured by Shimadzu Corporation, and

Sta : the tensile strength [MPa] required to break 30% of the particle diameter of the agglomerate with the particle diameter $4\mu m$, measured by a micro compression testing machine manufactured by Shimadzu Corporation.

Claim 2 (original): The agglomerate according to claim 1, wherein the agglomerate satisfies the solidified apparent density satisfies the following expression

(f):

$$(f) \ 0.2 \leq \rho_{bp} \leq 0.8 \ [g/cm^3],$$

wherein

pbp: the solidified apparent density [g/cm^3] of the agglomerate powder measured by a powder tester manufactured by Hosokawa Micron Co., Ltd..

Claim 3 (currently amended): The agglomerate according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the agglomerate is surface-treated with at least one kind selected from aliphatic acids, alicyclic carboxylic acids, aromatic carboxylic acids, their sulfonic acids and resin acids, their metal salts, ammonium salts, amine salts, esters; aliphatic, alicyclic, and aromatic sulfonic acids; coupling agents; silicone oils; paraffin; copolymers of α,β -monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids and monomers copolymerizable with α,β -monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, their metal salts ammonium salts, amine salts, esters; phosphoric acid esters; and industrial soaps.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The agglomerate according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the agglomerate comprises calcium carbonate.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A resin composition containing a resin mixed with the agglomerate according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

Claim 6 (original): The resin composition according to claim 5, wherein the resin is selected from polyolefin resins, polyester resins, polyamide resins, polyvinyl chloride resins, and biodegradable resins.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The resin composition according to claim 5 [[or 6]], wherein the resin composition is in the form of a film, a sheet or a fiber.

Claim 8 (new): The agglomerate according to claim 2, wherein the agglomerate is surface-treated with at least one kind selected from aliphatic acids, alicyclic carboxylic acids, aromatic carboxylic acids, their sulfonic acids and resin acids, their metal salts, ammonium salts, amine salts, esters; aliphatic, alicyclic, and aromatic sulfonic acids; coupling agents; silicone oils; paraffin; copolymers of α,β -monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids and monomers copolymerizable with α,β -monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, their metal salts ammonium salts, amine salts, esters; phosphoric acid esters; and industrial soaps.

Claim 9 (new): The agglomerate according to claim 2, wherein the agglomerate comprises calcium carbonate.

Claim 10 (new): The agglomerate according to claim 3, wherein the agglomerate comprises calcium carbonate.

Claim 11 (new): A resin composition containing a resin mixed with the agglomerate according to claim 2.

Claim 12 (new): A resin composition containing a resin mixed with the agglomerate according to claim 3.

Claim 13 (new): The resin composition according to claim 11, wherein the resin is selected from polyolefin resins, polyester resins, polyamide resins, polyvinyl chloride resins, and biodegradable resins.

Claim 14 (new): The resin composition according to claim 12, wherein the resin is selected from polyolefin resins, polyester resins, polyamide resins, polyvinyl chloride resins, and biodegradable resins.